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The Tangi Times

The Newspaper of Tangipahoa, St. Helena, and Eastern Livingston Parishes

MONDAY MOJO EDITION

44th Year, No. 62 | Monday, July 7, 2025 | ONE DOLLAR

Are You Hurricane-Ready?

Tangi Times Report

Nobody in South Louisiana wants to hear the H-word, but now that July is underway, it's time to enter the better-safe-than-sorry mindset. Here in the states along the coast of the Gulf of America, we have a love-hate relationship with Mother Nature, and the most despised of all her offerings must be dreaded hurricanes.

Anyone who has lived in our area for 20 years or longer knows that when a hurricane puts us in the crosshairs, there is one main question that must be answered as early as practical: should I stay, or should I go? Notwithstanding the shameless lyric pilfering from the Clash, this is a very serious conundrum for most families.

Most Louisianans would agree that a Category 4 or 5 storm heading straight for us probably calls for a 'go' vote, but most of those same people would probably stay put for a Category 3 or weaker storm. Depending on your circumstances, staying home might be the better choice for you.

If you plan to shelter in place for a storm, you need to be even

more prepared than you need to be if you choose to evacuate. Widespread power outages are almost a guarantee in a Category 2 or 3, and very likely in a Category 1 storm. Commercial services will become sparsely available, if even at all, and essential supplies such as fuel, groceries, and medication could become completely unavailable.

Everyone who plans to shelter in place if a hurricane affects our area should be ready in advance with a survival kit sufficient for the entire household for several days. Plastic totes make great containers to organize and safely store your supplies. Here are some items that should be included:

Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)

- Food (at least a several-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA weather radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)

See HURRICANE PREP, Page 5

Adult Learners Are Making a Comeback

By STEFANIE BROOKE • Tangi Times Community Journalist

If you've ever daydreamed about going back to school while stirring a pot of gumbo or waiting in the car line, you're not alone, and you're definitely not too late. Whether you're 25 or 65, education isn't just for fresh-faced teenagers with dorm keys. It's for anyone with a curious mind, a desire for growth, and maybe a few more responsibilities in the mix.

That's where non-traditional student options come in – flexible, affordable, and way more doable than you might think.

Today's colleges and universities are practically rolling out the red carpet for adult learners. Many schools now offer evening classes, weekend programs, and full degrees online so you can study when the kids are asleep, after work, or in your favorite stretchy pants. Schools like Southeastern Louisiana University, LSU Online, and community colleges across the state have robust options for part-

time students, career changers, and people looking to finally chase that dream degree.

And don't let finances scare you off. Non-traditional students often qualify for the same kinds of financial aid as their younger peers – grants, scholarships, and even work-study programs. The first stop is the good ol' FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), which unlocks Pell Grants and other aid based on your income.

If you're over 25 and attending college for the first time (or returning after a long break) you may also be eligible for Louisiana-specific help like the Go Grant or the MJ Foster Promise Program, both designed to support adult learners going into high-demand fields.

Got a degree already but want a second one? You still have options. Some scholarships and aid may still apply, especially if you're switching to a field like education, healthcare, or environmental science – areas often supported by federal and state funding.

Don't forget to check with your local school's financial aid office. They know all the little-known grants and waivers that might just help you squeeze college into your life (and budget) without turning everything upside down.

And the best part? You won't be alone. Classrooms are now full of people balancing work, family, and education – folks just like you who are finally going after what they really want. You might be learning statistics next to someone who just dropped their kid off at soccer, or writing essays

See LEARNERS, Page 5

Today is National Rock 'n Roll Day

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The Tangi Times

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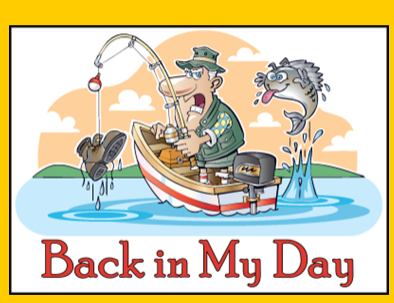

and much more!

One Dollar
1 97644 87009 7

Bizzy Bee Convenience Store Opens in Montpelier

Bizzy Bee convenience store, fuel station, and deli celebrated its grand opening on Wednesday, July 2. The store is located on Hwy 16 in the Village of Montpelier.

Pictured left to right: Village of Montpelier Mayor Kenneth Giardina, Village of Montpelier Mayor Pro Tem Brad Davis, Bizzy Bee owner Karamjit Talwandi, St. Helena Parish Sheriff Clay Chutz, Anthony Petito, Village of Montpelier Police Chief Kelly Spinks

I'm curious about how a cemetery can raise its rates and blame it on the high cost of living.

Just Saying

MEME MOJO

I just got my electric bill, and I'm pretty sure I got charged for the sunlight, the moonlight, the streetlight, the light of my life, the speed of light, and the light at the end of the tunnel.

PALINDROME du jour

Do geese see God?

A palindrome is a word, phrase, or sentence that reads the same backward as it does forward. If you have a favorite palindrome, send it to publisher@tangitimes.com.

Summers Were Hotter, Longer, and Definitely More Dangerous

Back in my day, summer didn't come with sunscreen reminders and hydration apps – it came with dirt in your hair, one working bicycle between six cousins, and the very real risk of falling into a crawfish hole and never being seen again.

You kids think you know summer? Let me tell you what summer really looked like.

You woke up when the sun hit your face – because your MawMaw didn't believe in curtains – and you didn't come back inside unless it was for dinner, a wasp sting, or lightning directly struck the oak tree by the tire swing. And even then, you had to be bleeding for anyone to really pay attention.

We didn't have fancy splash pads. We had garden hoses that sprayed like a fire hydrant if you crimped 'em just right.

And kiddie pools? Please. You were lucky if someone had a rusted-out cattle trough. Nothing cooled you off like sitting in six inches of lukewarm water with bits of grass stuck to your legs and a wasp hovering three feet overhead. That's what we called a spa day.

Summer treats? We sucked on freeze pops until our tongues changed color permanently. The red ones were elite, the green ones were suspect, and the orange ones always melted first somehow. If you didn't get brain freeze at least once a day, you weren't doing summer right.

We didn't need schedules or "enrichment." You got a stick, a can, and a warning to stay off the neighbor's property. Somehow, that kept us entertained for nine hours straight.

You learned physics the hard way – usually involving a hill, a wagon, and no brakes. Helmets? Don't make me laugh. If you survived July, you earned a rite of passage and probably a tetanus shot.

And don't get me started on summer storms. These days, you get a notification 20 minutes before it rains. Back then, you judged it by the smell of the air and the sudden silence from the tree frogs.

You'd better haul it back home if you saw a dog lying flat and staring at the sky. That's the Southern weather forecast we trusted.

So, yes, y'all have your summer camps and your Bluetooth beach speakers and your $12 iced lemonades. But back in my day, we had popsicle-stained shirts, bare feet tougher than leather, and a whole lot of mosquito bites – and we were happy about it.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm off to sit in a lawn chair with a paper fan and a glass of sweet tea so strong it could peel paint. Just like summer's supposed to be.

Safety Tip of the Day
Rideshare Safety Tip
Never accept any food, drinks or mints from a rideshare driver.
No matter how nice they are, do not risk it.
If you see something, say something.
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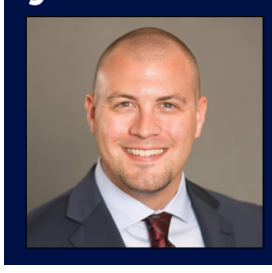
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Passing of the Gavel

Hammond/ Ponchatoula Sunrise Rotary Club Outgoing President Jaely Yeates, left, passes the gavel to incoming president, Carolyn Howard, right. Howard will serve from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. The Hammond/ Ponchatoula Sunrise Rotary Club meets on Tuesday mornings at 7:30am at Tope La Catering.

SLITHERY THINGS

So misunderstood!

By Kevin Hood
Louisiana Snake ID

Do Snakes Make Good Pets?

Absolutely, they do!

You may have read one of my previous articles stating that we have over 30 pet snakes and wondered if snakes make good pets. I'm here to tell you that YES, they make fantastic pets.

Think of all the things that drive you crazy about your pet dogs and cats; snakes do almost none of those things. To be transparent, we have one dog, three cats, 35 snakes, and one blue-tongued skink, so I'm not trying to suggest that dogs and cats are bad pets. Snakes are just easier and great pets in a different way.

Snakes don't have arms, legs, or a voice, so you'll never have to deal with barking, growling, excessive hissing, or meowing! Snakes don't hop up on your furniture, scratch your furniture, or leave hair all over your clothes and furniture.

All our 30+ snakes have their own secure enclosures, so they only come out when we take them out. The more you hold them, the more they get used to being held and enjoy it.

What do they eat? We have a large variety of snakes, so some eat fish, others eat mice, some eat rats, and some eat chickens. It really depends on the species of snake and its size.

Typically, people can stick strictly to a rodent diet for their snakes, which is significantly cheaper than feeding a dog, cat, or bird. Snakes typically eat only once a week or every other week, and some can go for months without eating after a large meal.

What kind of maintenance do snakes require? Snakes are super easy to care for, and it all starts with purchasing a reptile kit from a store or converting an old aquarium into a reptile habitat. Since we take in so many snakes from other people, we also collect old aquariums from them.

Different species require different types of bedding, from aspen to cypress to Repti-chips, but the bedding typically lasts a good while and isn't super expensive. Fresh water and clean bedding are also essential for maintaining your snake's health.

They'll often use their water dish as a toilet, but they'll also go in their bedding. Once it's dry, you can typically use a glove and paper towel to grab and dispose of it quite easily.

Do they like to be held? Yes, I believe that they do. If you have a snake from a young age, holding it will not only make it more comfortable being held, but the snake will also seem to enjoy it.

At our shows, our favorite part is when children and adults get to pet, hold, or even wear one of our snakes as a "snake necklace." The smiles on all their faces as they overcome fears and try something new are worth all the work we do to dispel snake myths.

If you're reading this and thinking I'm crazy for having pet snakes, I get it. If you're reading this and thinking it would be cool to have a pet snake but don't know where to start, contact me through our website www.louisianasnakeid.com or our social media (also linked from the website).

I'd love to chat with you about different species and which are best for beginners. I can also point you in a few directions to help you find the best snake for your family from a reputable source.

If you're looking for a pet that won't bark, meow, shed hair, scratch furniture, or wake you up in the middle of the night and doesn't have to be walked, slither on over to the SNAKE side.

TANGIPAHOA PARISH LIBRARY

2025 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Your Passport to Summer Reading Fun!

You can still join the fun! Sign up for the 2025 Summer Reading Program at any library branch and pick up your Summer Reading Passport. Enjoy weekly programs for all ages, along with reading to earn stamps in your passport for prizes.

EARN STAMPS IN YOUR PASSPORT FOR PRIZES!

SUMMER READING AWARDS DAYS

All participants completing the Summer Reading Program are invited to celebrate! Come to the Awards Day Party at your local library and receive a certificate, prize and a free book! Drawings will also take place for raffle winners.

Hammond	Children and Teen	Thur, July 24	10:30 AM
	Teen Lock-In	Fri, July 25	6:30–7:45 PM
Amite	Children and Teen	Fri, July 25	10:30 AM
Loranger	Children and Teen	Fri, July 25	11:00 AM
Ponchatoula	Children and Teen	Fri, July 25	4:00 PM
Independence	Children and Teen	Tues, July 29	2:30 PM
Kentwood	Children and Teen	Tues, July 29	2:30 PM

For a complete schedule of all Summer Reading Program events, visit your local branch or www.TangiLibrary.com

JULY SPECIAL PROGRAMS

LA SNAKE ID

SAT, JULY 12
Independence, 11 AM
SAT, JULY 19
Hammond, 11 AM
SAT, JULY 26
Ponchatoula, 11 AM

Kevin Hood, the Louisiana Snake Man, helps people understand the benefits of snakes in Louisiana while debunking myths people may have when it comes to reptiles. Get ready to hold some snakes!

MAMA SABA

TUES, JULY 8
Loranger, 10:30 AM
Independence, 2:30 PM
WED, JULY 9
Ponchatoula, 10:30 AM
Hammond, 2:30 PM
THUR, JULY 10
Amite, 10:30 AM
Kentwood, 2:30 PM

Discover the magic of storytelling with Mama SaBa, who brings folk tales to life through wordplay, song and dance, inspiring and entertaining audiences of all ages.

LADY CHOPS

TUES, JULY 15
Loranger, 10:30 AM
Independence, 2:30 PM
WED, JULY 16
Ponchatoula, 10:30 AM
Hammond, 2:30 PM
THUR, JULY 17
Amite, 10:30 AM
Kentwood, 2:30 PM

Elizabeth Vidos, also known as Lady Chops, brings her one-woman drumming show to the Tangi branches. Incorporating over 15 instruments, Lady Chops' performance is energetic and fun for all ages!

ANIMAL TALES

TUES, JULY 22
Loranger, 10:30 AM
Independence, 2:30 PM
WED, JULY 23
Ponchatoula, 10:30 AM
Hammond, 2:30 PM
THUR, JULY 24
Amite, 10:30 AM
Kentwood, 2:30 PM

Enjoy a live animal show with Animal Tales! Get up close and personal with animals from all over the world in this interactive, exciting and educational event for all ages.

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A Birthday Gift to You from The Tangi Times

To celebrate the TEN summer birthdays of TEN Tangi Times staff members and writers, we are giving you TEN free summer weeks of digital access to the Tangi Times, now through August 30!

Visit www.tangitimes.com and click SUBSCRIBE at the top. Then, at the left of the screen, look for "Existing Print Subscriber" and click REGISTER. Follow the prompts to set up your free digital subscription.

North Oaks School of Radiologic Technology Graduates Fifty-sixth Class

From North Oaks

The fifty-sixth graduating class of North Oaks School of Radiologic Technology was honored with a commencement ceremony on the evening of Tuesday, July 1.

Program Director Heather Koepp proudly shared that the 2025 class has a 100% retention and job placement rate.

The 15 graduates include Ashlyn Betzer from Ponchatoula; Kaelyn Connella from Pearl River; Alexis Easlic from Slidell; Timothy Flanagan from Hammond; Brennen Gaudet from Houma; Mallory Guillie from Covington; Jonathan Kreamer from Hammond; Kamryn Michel from Covington; Katelyn Newman from Hammond; Kara Odinet from Hammond; Heaven Phillips from Thibodaux; Alleigh Raborn from Ponchatoula; Ashton Siebert from Ethel; Austin Smith from Hammond; and Olivia Watkins from Covington.

Connella, Easlic, Flanagan, Gaudet, Guillie, Kreamer, Michel, Newman, Odinet, Phillips, Raborn, Siebert, Smith and Watkins graduated with honors as members of Lambda Nu, a national honor society for the radiologic and imaging sciences. Membership requires that students maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average out of a possible 4.0.

The commencement was held at the E. Brent Dufreche Conference Center, located within North Oaks Diagnostic Center on the North Oaks Medical Center campus.

North Oaks Chief Human Resources Officer Jeff Jarreau presided over the ceremony that concluded two years of study for the students involving 2,000 clinical hours and more than 1,200 classroom hours.

North Oaks Pastoral Care Director Keith Kincaid delivered the invocation, and Connella led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The commencement address was delivered by Suzanne Smith, a 1994 alumna of North Oaks School of Radiologic Technology and 31-year employee of North Oaks Health System. Smith currently serves as the health system's Clinical Operations Manager for Radiology.

"Never forget that behind every image is a person who is counting on you do your best," Smith reminded the graduates—highlighting the vital role radiologic technologists play in compassionate, diagnostic patient care.

Smith went on to encourage the graduates to evolve with their profession, "Embrace the challenges that come your way, for they are opportunities to grow, learn and make a difference."

Before the presentation of diplomas by Koepp, outstanding achievement awards were given. North Oaks School of Radiologic Technology Didactic Instructor Ben Raney pre-

(See NORTH OAKS Page 5)

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Horoscopes

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2nd week of July

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Fill your mind with positive and motivational thoughts and you'll be much happier in the long run, Aries. It's easy to focus on negatives, but a change of perspective is liberating.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
It is possible that a lack of energy is affecting your ability to do the things that you normally enjoy, Taurus. Figure out ways to get more rest so you will not lack energy.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
It seems your social skills have been less consistent than in the past, Gemini. Do you have a reason why you have been pulling away from others lately? Get back on track.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, someone might recommend you for a leadership position and you could be inclined to take it. This is something that is out of your wheelhouse, but you'll make the most of it.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, trusting someone else right now is something you might find challenging. It could be because you don't trust your instincts. You'll have to find a way around these feelings.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you haven't been available for some key people, and you'll find they've pulled away. You may miss their presence, but you can mend fences if you hope to.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, you have been making excuses for someone in your life in the hopes that the relationship could be salvaged. But the other person must make an effort as well.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you have been putting your goals aside due to overwhelming circumstances and general procrastination. Now is the time to get things back on schedule.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
It's time to engage with the activities that you are passionate about, Sagittarius. There is never a "right" opportunity to get things started; you just need to take that first step.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Someone who understands you may enter your life, Capricorn. It may feel like you already know and understand this person, even though you have just met.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
It's possible that you might feel stuck with someone in a situation that is not to your liking, Aquarius. You can be a catalyst for change if you start taking action.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
You are about to have a eureka moment, Pisces. Everything you have been fretting about will then fall into place. It will be some smooth sailing afterwards.

Public Notices

TPSS

NOTICE

DEADLINE: July 9, 2025

The Tangipahoa Parish School System (TPSS) is now accepting applications for the following:

POSITION:OFFICE ASSISTANT (12 Months)

SALARY: $28,177 - $47,147 (Based on verified years of relevant experience)

LOCATION: Academics Department – Central Office Amite, LA

CRITERIA: High School Diploma or Equivalency Certificate, and must have one of the following:

At least two (2) years of experience in an office or human resources setting.

Successfully completed coursework leading to an Associate Degree in Office Administration, or Human Resources related area.

Successfully completed coursework at a State Approved Vocational School, Business School, or J.T.P.A. sponsored school in office management, human resources or related field.

A Bachelor's degree or higher will be accepted in lieu of the above requirements.

Updated diplomas, certificates, and other supporting documentation must be submitted with the application.

Applications for this position will only be accepted through the Frontline Recruit and Hire website: www.applitrack.com/Tangischools/onlineapp. Paper applications and/or email scanned attachment(s) will not be accepted or processed for consideration.

Submit your application through the Frontline Recruit and Hire portal before the deadline of **July 9, 2025,** even if a previous paper application is on file with TPSS Human Resources. Previous paper or email applications will not be considered.

IMPORTANT: Please be advised that all applicants who apply for this position should check their email account daily, **including their SPAM folder,** for communications regarding this advertisement.

The Tangipahoa Parish School System is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability.

DATE ADVERTISEMENT POSTED: June 30, 2025

Publish: July 2, 4,7 & 9 Cost of notice:$23.50

NOTICE

DEADLINE: July 11, 2025

The Tangipahoa Parish School System (TPSS) is now accepting applications for the following:

POSITION: AGRICULTURE TEACHER (12 Months)

SALARY: $64,012 - $92,023 (Based on degree and verified years of relevant experience)

LOCATION:Loranger High School Loranger, LA

CRITERIA: Possess a Standard Louisiana Teaching Certificate with a certification area of Agriculture grades 6-12 as listed in Bulletin 746 – Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel.

Applications for this position will only be accepted through the Frontline Recruit and Hire website (24TUhttps://www.applitrack.com/Tangischools/onlineapp/U24T). Paper applications and/or email scanned attachment(s) will not be accepted or processed for consideration.

Submit your application through the Frontline Recruit and Hire portal before the deadline of **July 11, 2025** even if a previous paper application is on file with TPSS Human Resources. Previous paper or email applications will not be considered.

The Tangipahoa Parish School System is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability.

DATE ADVERTISEMENT POSTED: July 2, 2025

Publish: July 4,7, 9 & 11 Cost of notice:$17.00

GDD#4

Minutes of the Board of Commissioners of Gravity Drainage District No. 4 of Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana, held on Monday, June 30, 2025, at the regular meeting place, Amite City Hall, Amite, Louisiana.

The Board of Commissioners of Gravity Drainage District No. 4 of Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana met on the above date in regular session and was called to order by the President, Mrs. Lori B. Petitto, at 4:30 p.m. o'clock with the following members present:

Present: Lori B. Petitto, Lafete Tucker, Kyle Warren, James C. Ricks, Lionel Sutton

Absent: None

The president called on Mr. Lafete Tucker to voice the invocation and the pledge.

The roll call showed a quorum to be present. Whereupon a motion was made by Mr. Warren duly seconded by Mr. Ricks and unanimously carried that the reading of the minutes of the last regular meeting, dated May 19, 2025, be dispensed with and that they be adopted as of record and published in the official journal.

The secretary presented bills in the amount of $10,804.94 for canal maintenance, material, supplies, contract labor, printing, etc. Whereupon a motion was made by Mrs. Petitto duly seconded by Mr. Warren and unanimously carried that the payment of the bills be authorized and approved.

The financial report on the general condition of the district was given and a motion was made by Mr. Tucker duly seconded by Mr. Ricks and unanimously carried that the report of the treasurer be approved and accepted.

Mr. Tommy Hazlewood from the Tangi Times was in attendance to present us with another copy of the Tangi Times newspaper layout and answer any questions if needed.

On motion by Mr. Warren duly seconded by Mr. Tucker and unanimously carried, the board approved and adopted the Annual Review Report for the year ending December 31, 2024, prepared and presented by Laura Gray, CPA Firm.

As per advertised in the official journal and the specified time having arrived, the president opened and read aloud the two bids received for the official journal of the district for the period July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026:

The Daily Star: $5.70 per square of 100 words per insertion

The Tangi Times: $5.25 per square of 100 words per insertion

On motion by Mr. Ricks duly seconded by Mr. Sutton and unanimously carried, the Tangi Times was named official journal for the district for the period July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

The president opened sealed bids for the following two jobs, as follows:

Holden Circle:
M/S Dozer Services $3750
Liuzza Trucking $2850
Williams One Stop $1000

Dykes Lane:
M/S Dozer Services: $4600
Liuzza Trucking: $2350
Williams One Stop $2500

On motion by Mr. Ricks duly seconded by Mrs. Petitto and unanimously carried, the board accepted and approved the two lowest bids for the abovementioned jobs, as follows: Liuzza Trucking won the Dykes Lane job in the amount of $2350. Williams One Stop won the Holden Circle job in the amount of $1000.

On motion by Mr. Tucker duly seconded by Mrs. Petitto and unanimously carried, the following action was taken:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2025 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by Gravity Drainage District No. 4:

MILLAGE

Construction and Maintenance (1070015): 3.00 mills

Construction and Maintenance (1070069): 2.00 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Tangipahoa, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2025, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full; the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS: Petitto, Tucker, Warren, Ricks, Sutton
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: None

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the board meeting held on June 30, 2025, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

Amite, Louisiana, this 30th day of June 2025.

The secretary made known to the board that she received a letter from the Town of Roseland requesting assistance on Brown Lane. The president will contact the mayor of Roseland regarding this request.

On motion by Mr. Sutton duly seconded by Mr. Tucker and unanimously carried, the board agreed to re-commit leftover emergency hurricane funds in the amount of $43,345.

Discussion was held concerning the donated Ford truck from District No. 1. It is not currently running, and a decision will be made soon as to what to do with it.

Maps of the district will be obtained from Mr. Kiley Bates. The board will gather soon to review all areas of the district so that the new contract labor crew will know where to start and continue maintenance according to the map.

Election of Officers:

On motion by Mr. Ricks duly seconded by Mr. Warren and unanimously carried, the board agreed to keep the officers as is, as follows:

Lori B. Petitto, President
Lafete Tucker, Vice-President
Mary Lynn Thompson, Secretary/Treasurer

No further business appearing, on motion by Mrs. Petitto duly seconded by Mr. Warren and unanimously carried, the board adjourned.

Lori B. Petitto, President

Attest:
Mary Lynn Thompson, Secretary

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Join the Minutemen of Ponchatoula

To all my friends who enjoy seeing the flag fly continuously over our Ponchatoula:

The 'Minutemen of Ponchatoula' is a not-for-profit organization created solely to keep the flag flying over our City of Ponchatoula. Our membership dues are only $25.00 per year and are used solely to purchase flags. We go through about 4 per year due to wear and tear from high winds and storms.

Our 177-foot-tall flagpole was a BellSouth communication tower. In 1985, the Jaycees took on the project of moving the pole across the tracks and across Pine Street to its current home today.

Every year on the 4th of July, the community comes together to our annual flag raising ceremony, hoisting up the big 70x40-foot flag, which was hand-sewn by locals known as the 'Betsy Ross Ladies.' Last year, we had nearly 80 participants, each of whom had to lend a hand to handle the enormous 2800-square foot foot flag. It was a wonderful morning and spectacular sight.

The purpose of this message is to ask you to become a member if you are not already one. We do not have socials, no dances, no crawfish boils, and no fundraisers. We just collect dues to keep our flag flying over our proud city.

Our president, Ronnie Perrin, is in charge of keeping a supply of flags so we will always have one flying.

As the secretary/ treasurer, I am asking you to send a $25.00 check payable to 'Minutemen of Ponchatoula' to me at my address listed below. Please do it now before LIFE gets in the way. Dues are due each July 4th and are totally voluntary but much needed.

Minutemen of Ponchatoula
c/o Ricky Howes
280 N. 8th Street
Ponchatoula, LA 70454

Please do it today and support our city in welcoming all our visitors with our grand Old Glory.

Sincerely,

Ricky

NORTH OAKS

(FROM PAGE 4)

sented the Academic Award to Easlic for obtaining the highest overall scholastic average.

Guillie received the Dannye Young Taylor "Always Remembering Others" award, presented by Didactic Instructor Kenneth E. Travis, in recognition of selfless assistance to others and teamwork. Now retired, Taylor was a long-time patient representative for North Oaks Health System. Her husband, Dr. Rodney Taylor, established the award in tribute to her and her motto, "always remember others."

The Performance and Attitude Award for exceptional performance in the clinical setting was presented to Kreamer by Stephanie A. McKenzie, the school's clinical coordinator. Kreamer also received the CARE Award from Koepp in recognition of his commitment, good attitude, respect for others and perfect effort.

In Koepp's remarks, she noted that many members of the class of 2025 received state and national acclaim through the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT), Lambda Nu National Honor Society and Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists (LSRT).

North Oaks School of Radiologic Technology students swept the LSRT essay competition with Watkins placing first, Odinet placing second and Easlic placing third. Gaudet, who represented the school on the 2024-25 LSRT Student Council, also was selected as LSRT Student of the Year for 2024.

Easlic, Michel and Phillips completed the LSRT Student to Leadership Development Program, and Michel was chosen as the recipient of the 2024 LSRT Joe Schwartz Memorial Scholarship.

On the national stage, Michel and Phillips joined 109 students chosen nationwide to take part in the ASRT Student to Leadership Development Program. They were two of three students selected from Louisiana and the fourth and fifth students ever from North Oaks School of Radiologic Technology to participate. They also traveled to Reno, Nevada before graduation to represent North Oaks and the LSRT at the 2025 ASRT Educational Symposium and Annual Governance and House of Delegates meeting.

Rounding out the class of 2025's accolades, Betzer, Easlic, Gaudet, Michel, Phillips and Watkins received ASRT Foundation Sponsor a Student Grants.

Koepp concluded her remarks by noting that Watkins will continue her education in nuclear medicine starting in August through Weber State University based in Ogden, Utah.

Established in 1967, North Oaks School of Radiologic Technology is accredited by Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. The school offers a comprehensive 24-month program that provides classroom and clinical instruction to prepare students for careers in the field of diagnostic imaging, which is used to diagnose and treat diseases and injuries. Upon graduation, students are eligible to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists national certification examination and apply for Louisiana state licensure through the Louisiana State Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners.

Applications for the 2026-28 class will be accepted through June 1, 2026. Applications are available online at northoaks.org/careers. For more information, call North Oaks School of Radiologic Technology at (985) 230-7805.

TANGI GUMBO
A little bit of everything you need to know

The Northshore Humane Society is making it easier than ever to find your perfect furry companion by drastically reducing adoption fees for all pets—from tiny kittens to senior dogs—during a special event running July 7 through July 12. Adult cats and dogs (six months and older) can be adopted for just $25, kittens for $45, and puppies for $100. Each adoption includes spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, and all required vaccinations, with additional parish tags and preventatives available as needed. Whether you're ready to adopt or just browsing, now is the perfect time to visit the shelter and give a loving pet a forever home. For more information and to view adoptable animals, visit www.northshorehumane.org.

Ellie R McGlynn of Hammond graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy in Communication from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND.

Maria Nechaeva of Slidell, president of the Southeastern Louisiana University Student Government Association, has been elected by the University of Louisiana System's Student Advisory Council to serve as the student representative on the system's Board of Supervisors. A biological sciences major, Nechaeva will act as the voice for over 91,500 students across nine universities. Known for her active campus involvement, including leadership roles in Alpha Sigma Tau sorority and organizing major campus events, Nechaeva said she is honored to represent student voices at the highest level. Southeastern President William S. Wainwright praised her leadership and commitment to excellence, expressing full confidence in her ability to advocate for students across the system.

On Monday, July 14, 2025, at 10:30am, the Northshore Humane Society will officially launch its capital campaign to build a new, state-of-the-art animal shelter and community veterinary clinic at its future home on Harrison Avenue in Covington, LA. This major initiative marks a transformative step for one of Louisiana's largest no-kill animal rescues, which has served the community for over 70 years. The public unveiling will include renderings of the new facility, campaign details, and opportunities for interviews with NHS leadership, contractors, and campaign managers, highlighting the organization's vision to expand lifesaving services for animals across the Northshore.

HURRICANE PREP
(FROM PAGE 1)

-Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
-Manual can opener (for food)
-Local paper maps
-Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery
-Soap, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces
-Prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs, and vitamins
-Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
-Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes, and diaper rash cream
-Pet food and extra water for your pet
-Cash or traveler's checks
-Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification, and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
-Sleeping bag or blanket for each person
-Clean clothing appropriate for your climate
-Sturdy shoes
-Fire extinguisher
-Matches in a waterproof container
-Toilet paper
-Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
-Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels, and plastic utensils
-Paper and pencil
-Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children
-Chainsaw and fresh fuel/oil
-Fill fuel tanks in all vehicles before the storm arrives

While this list does not include everything you will need when you shelter in place, it will help you to stock essential items that are sometimes easy to overlook. And here's a final tip for those who routinely stock shelter-in-place supplies: if your stock is held over from Hurricane Ida in 2021, its's time to refresh it.

We all hope for a quiet 2025 season.

LEARNERS
(FROM PAGE 1)

alongside someone who hasn't written a paper since dial-up internet.

So if your goals have been sitting on a dusty shelf while life did its thing, now's the time to dust them off. Education isn't just about a diploma – it's about doing something for yourself, expanding your opportunities, and proving to your kids (and maybe your younger self) that it's never too late to level up.

Whether you want a new career, a fresh start, or just the pride of finishing what you started, school is still in session – and you're still invited.

FUN FACT

A person who has a tendency to use long words is known as a SESQUIPEDALIAN

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Bats: Not as Scary as We Think

When thinking of wildlife, bats are rarely the first to come to mind. The mere mention of them will immediately put off most people.

When I was little, I loved exploring old, abandoned buildings with my friends, despite all the dangers and reasons our parents told us not to. One such reason was bats. According to lore, they attacked kids and got tangled in their hair, forcing their hair to be cut off. In the meantime, they would also bite and suck all the blood out of you.

This was enough to steer most kids clear of old buildings. I, however, found the thought of a bat getting tangled in my hair appealing, so I made it a point to go into the most dilapidated buildings I could find. I wanted to see the bats.

Thanks to movies, cartoons, and Halloween, they have become vilified. Thus, many people are afraid of them, especially when they find one that had accidentally gotten into their house. A bat or an entire family, called a colony, could also live in their shed, chimney, or attic.

What's the best course of action in this scenario? Are they as scary as many believe?

Bats are very misunderstood and unnecessary feared due to mainstream media portraying them in a negative light: blood sucking things that come for us in the middle of the night. Believe it or not, some people falsely believe they're vampires.

They are a very important part of our ecosystem, consuming thousands of insects, including crop-damaging pests and pesky mosquitos. Some species can even consume over 1,000 mosquitoes in one hour!

Alongside our most popular pollinator, the bees, bats also play a huge role in pollination. They do this through a process called chiropterophily, where pollen sticks to their fur as they consume nectar from flowers. Then, the pollen is transferred to the next flower or plant that the bat travels to.

There are over 300 plant species that depend on bats for pollination.

They use echolocation to see by emitting high-frequency sound waves and detecting where they bounce back from, determining distance, direction, and the physical characteristics of surrounding objects or prey.

Bats also eat upside down and can live for more than 30 years. Some species even weigh less than a penny!

So, what should we do if we happen to have one desperately trying to find its way out of our home?

Never touch a bat with your bare hands, as they may bite. Any scared animal will likely bite to protect itself.

They can be coaxed out by leaving doors and windows open, as they probably flew in that way, chasing bugs to eat. If that's not possible, capture it gently with a small container, like a shoebox.

If you cannot safely remove the bat yourself, call a wildlife rehabber or professional for help.

It's very important to wear gloves when handling bats, as they sometimes carry rabies. If bitten, contain the bat and call wildlife officials so that it can be taken and tested for rabies.

Unfortunately, the only way to test an animal for rabies is through brain tissue, so the animal must be euthanized. Ensuring we take proper steps to protect our safety, as well as the bat's during the removal will prevent us from getting bitten and prevent the bat from being unnecessarily euthanized for testing purposes.

So, next time you encounter a bat, maybe the experience will be a little less scary. We must respect these flying puppies and maybe even welcome them with a bat house to will dissuade them from moving into your attic. Your gardens and surrounding ecosystem will thank you, as well!

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Tonya Aiken

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